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The President's Daily Brief

13 July 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 July 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists have become more aggressive recently in southwestern Cambodia. *(Page 1)*

Egyptian and Soviet leaders are still engaged in discussions, and the US role in the Middle East may be a major topic. *(Page 3)*

Jordan's King Husayn reached a better agreement with the fedayeen than many had expected, but few believe it will be implemented. *(Page 4)*

The Libyan Government's latest reduction of oil production has worsened the world petroleum supply situation, which is precarious. *(Page 5)*

The problems facing Britain, Ireland, Denmark, and Norway in their bids to join the European Communities are discussed at Annex.

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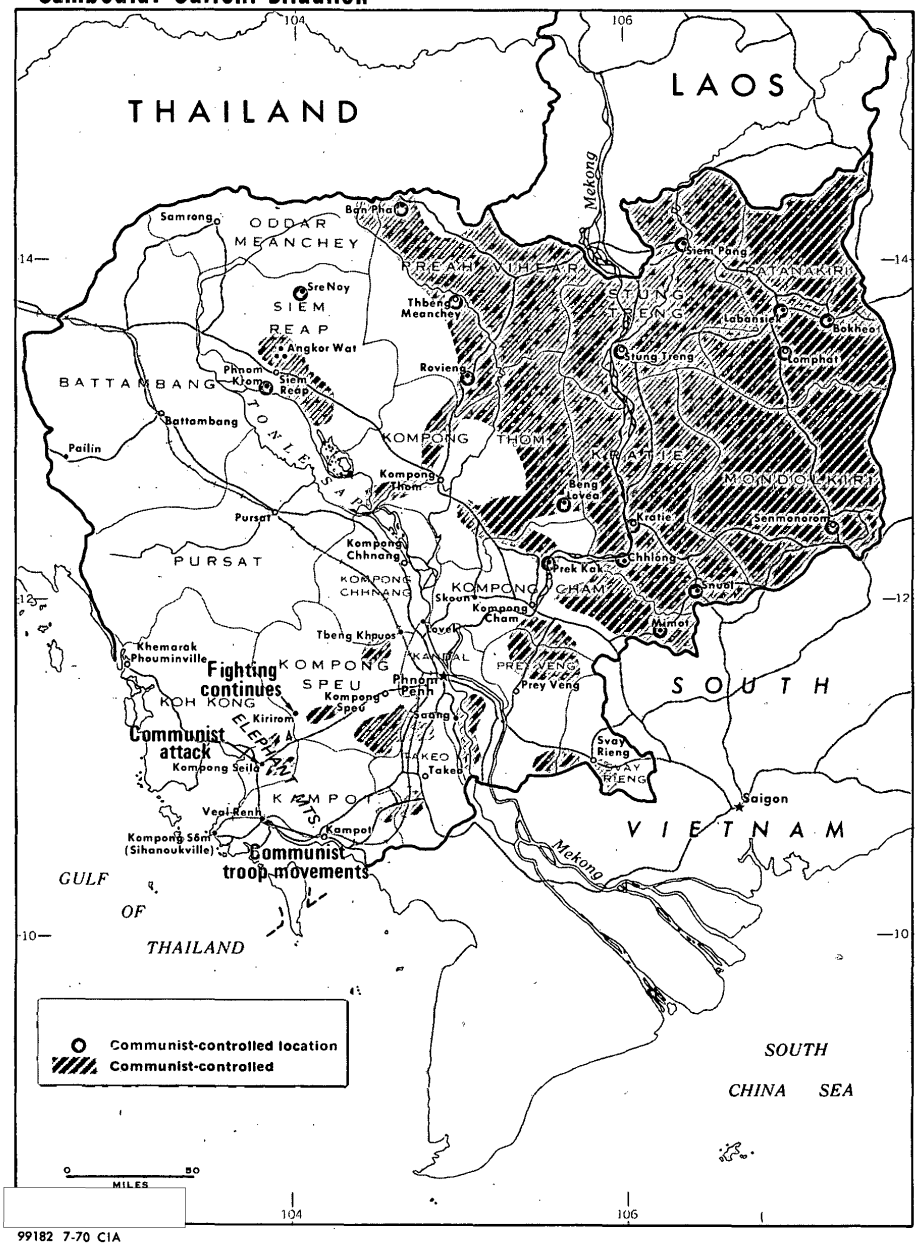
Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

At last report fighting was continuing at the town of Kirirom, which was overrun by Communist forces on 11 July. Government reinforcements are en route overland from Kompong Speu city and Cambodian T-28 aircraft have been flying continuous sorties in support of the government battalion holding on in the center of the town. Few details on the fighting are available, but it seems likely that some of the attackers were Cambodian Communists, who have been striving to establish base areas in the Elephant Mountains.

The action at Kirirom may be related to an upsurge of Communist activity in the southwest over the past two weeks. The town of Kompong Seila, farther south on Route 4, was attacked last week, and there have been several reports of Communist troop movements in the area. Cambodian commanders, for example, report that enemy units are moving along the southern coast toward the road junction at Veal Renh. Reinforcements have been called in to protect a portion of road leading to Kompong Som port that is highly susceptible to interdiction.

* * *

A battalion of troops has been sent in by helicopter to reinforce Kompong Thom. A New York Times correspondent who accompanied the troops reports that many of them are very young and that their antiquated Russian weapons are in bad repair. He also says the town has been largely destroyed.

* * *

Captured documents reveal that the Viet Cong 271st Regiment has formed a new battalion using Cambodian recruits and large numbers of Vietnamese regulars. The new unit has a reported strength of 515 men and was training a month ago.

In addition to indicating that the Communists are having some success recruiting Cambodians, the documents suggest that they are forming the kind of "mixed" North Vietnamese - indigenous force battalions that they have used with some success for many years in Laos.

(continued)

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that "many" Cambodian intellectuals are joining Sihanouk forces in the jungle. [redacted] the "old 50X1
Viet Minh" network is still in business and [redacted] it 50X1
had "many friends" within the Lon Nol government.
[redacted] Sihanouk's organization in Cambodia is progressing "very well." 50X1

[redacted] *no doubt maintains contact with "intellectual" and other elite circles in Phnom Penh,* 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

At the same time, however, many of Lon Nol's current supporters are probably keeping their political options open.

* * *

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EGYPT-USSR

Nasir's talks with Soviet leaders will continue this week. His third meeting with Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Podgorny took place on Saturday and a fourth is planned before he leaves for home.

According to press reports from Cairo, Foreign Ministers Riad and Gromyko met yesterday, after lesser members of both delegations had concluded yet another working level round.

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JORDAN

We have finally received details of the new agreement on coexistence between the government and the fedayeen. On paper at least, King Husayn came out ahead; but the accord probably will not be fully implemented. All it probably bought the King was some time.

The government is committed to:

--support the commando movement,

--repeal special measures taken during the outbreak of hostilities between the two, and,

--see that no official body acts against the interests of the fedayeen.

There is no reference to a government commitment to withdraw military forces from in and around the cities, or to disband government units such as the special forces. Both these conditions were demanded at the outset of the negotiations by the guerrillas.

The fedayeen are required to:

--adhere to the disciplinary regulations they had imposed on themselves during an earlier crisis last February,

--cease carrying arms in public places and stop driving unlicensed vehicles,

--give up military training with live ammunition and the storage of munitions in populated areas, and,

--establish bases outside of towns, except for those forces which took a leading part in last month's fighting with the army.

This exception appears to be the only real gain by the fedayeen.

The greatest potential trap in the agreement is the designation of the "central committee" of the Palestine Liberation Organization, controlled by more moderate fedayeen elements, as the single authority for all fedayeen organizations and activities. It is doubtful that the more radical guerrillas, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will honor the accord, or subordinate themselves to anyone else.

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LIBYA

Oasis Oil Company, the largest producer in Libya, has been ordered by Libyan authorities to reduce its production by about 125,000 barrels per day. This action, together with similar earlier action against Occidental and Amoseas, will reduce Libya's total output by almost 600,000 bpd from the peak in April of about 3.7 million bpd.

The Oasis reduction further aggravates the world oil supply situation, which is already precarious because of the earlier Libyan cutbacks and the continued shutdown of the Trans-Arabian pipeline.

This action may have been taken against Oasis because of alleged pro-Zionist activities of officials of the Oasis owner-companies. It may also be part of a campaign to demonstrate the importance of Libyan oil supplies, thus influencing current price negotiations.

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NOTES

Romania-USSR: In the eyes of Romanian party chief Ceausescu, the friendship treaty signed with the Soviets last week does not compromise his country's independent course (see The President's Daily Brief, dated 8 July 1970). Ceausescu does not intend that Romania be dragged by the treaty into any Soviet military conflict with Communist China. Instead, Ceausescu looks to the leaders of the two Communist giants to resolve their quarrel. He said Romania would be preoccupied with working toward this goal and asked the Soviets and the Chinese to accept diversity within the movement as a basis for relations among all Communists. Ceausescu's remarks on the subject were made to Romanian party leaders on 9 July and were later summarized in public pronouncements.

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ANNEX

EXPANSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Negotiations on the accession of Great Britain, Ireland, Denmark, and Norway to the European Communities (EC),* which opened formally last week in Luxembourg, will be long and hard. Nevertheless, the atmosphere at the opening session was quite favorable, and many officials are hopeful that this time the negotiations will succeed.

The most contentious issue is Britain's contribution to the financing of the Communities. Belgium's Foreign Minister Harmel, who spoke for the EC in his capacity as current president of the Council, emphasized that the applicants must accept the treaties on which the Communities are founded, as well as the decisions taken since. The most important of these decisions, judging by the difficulty members had in reaching it, was one last December on how to permanently finance the Communities.

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*The Communities are: the European Economic Community (Common Market), the European Coal and Steel Community, and the European Atomic Energy Community.

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